

Executive Order 2007-01
Ensuring Quality in Long Term Care

WHEREAS, living with independence and dignity is essential for all Arizonans, regardless of age or disability; and

WHEREAS, currently 40,000 Arizonans receive institutional or community-based long term care services each year; and

WHEREAS, the state of Arizona is committed to ensuring long term care quality; and

WHEREAS, those needing long term care are among our most frail and vulnerable residents, with the majority of people in nursing homes being over age 75; and

WHEREAS, the population of Arizonans over the age of 85 will increase by 102% within the next fifteen years; and

WHEREAS, the Arizona Department of Health Services (DHS), the Arizona Health Care Cost Containment System (AHCCCS), and the Arizona Department of Economic Security (DES) are already working with program contractors to focus on quality issues in long term care facilities; and

WHEREAS, coordination between various public and private organizations should continue to encourage a culture of quality in long term care; and

WHEREAS, while Arizona's health care professionals are tremendously skilled and dedicated, more needs to be done to improve the quality and safety of patient care; and

WHEREAS, Arizona's families deserve quality services and access to accurate information and resources to assist them in making well-informed decisions about long term health care; and

WHEREAS, all consumers of long term care services have certain rights, should be informed as to what those rights are, and should have access to quality assistance in ensuring those rights are upheld;

NOW, THEREFORE, I, Janet Napolitano, Governor of the State of Arizona, by virtue of the authority vested in me by the Constitution and the laws of this State, hereby order and direct as follows:

1. DHS, DES, and AHCCCS shall develop a comprehensive three-year strategy to improve quality in long term care, including focusing on nursing homes in the

first year, assisted living in the second year, and community care in the third year.

2. DHS, AHCCCS, and DES, in collaboration with program contractors and the long term care industry, shall set goals and take measures to reduce Arizona's rates of pressure ulcers and restraint use in nursing homes, with a minimum goal of achieving and/or sustaining rates well below the national average.
3. AHCCCS, DHS, and DES shall work together with the Arizona Long Term Care System program contractors to address and correct quality of care deficiencies in long term care facilities.
4. Beginning in FY08, and to the extent permitted by law, DHS shall develop incentives for nursing homes that have achieved top quality care, based on criteria set by the Department and as measured and verified through the annual survey and quality rating processes.
5. DHS, AHCCCS, and DES shall enter into intergovernmental services agreements, using existing resources, to jointly staff a full-time position within the DES Division of Aging and Adult Services to work with community advocates, long term care providers, community colleges and other entities as deemed necessary to address the shortage of long term care direct care support professionals in Arizona.
6. DHS shall continue to take the lead in holding conferences to educate direct care staff about how to prevent pressure ulcers and properly use restraints, with the next such conference to occur before the end of 2007.
7. DHS shall post Quality Ratings of individual nursing homes on the Department's website by no later than July 2007.
8. DHS shall also post regulatory surveys for nursing homes and assisted living facilities on its website to provide consumers with quality information about assisted living facilities beginning no later than January 2008.
9. DHS, AHCCCS, and DES shall collaborate to develop a Consumer's Long Term Care Toolkit to provide Arizona families with the information, resources, and guidance needed to make informed decisions about long term care.
10. DHS, during its survey process of nursing homes and assisted living facilities, shall foster better understanding and compliance with federal law regarding the provision and appropriate explanation of the Residents' Bill of Rights to all residents.

11. By July 2009, the Interagency Council on Long Term Care is requested to recommend a Bill of Rights for consumers of home and community-based long term care services.

IN WITNESS WHEREOF, I have hereunto set my hand and caused to be affixed the Great Seal of the State of Arizona.



[Signature]
GOVERNOR

DONE at the Capitol in Phoenix on this 8th day of January in the Year Two Thousand and Seven and of the Independence of the United States of America the Two Hundred and Thirty-First.

ATTEST:

[Signature]
SECRETARY OF STATE